

TETROPS STARKII CHEVR. (COL.: CERAMBYCIDAE) IN SUFFOLK AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

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COOTER (1990) suggested that *Tetrops starkii* Chevr. might occur in Britain confused with the very similar *T. praeusta* (L.), and in June 1991 Harrison (1992) beat a single specimen from an oak on the edge of Widley Copse, near Burford, Oxfordshire (OS grid reference SP 2714). I was fortunate to be able to examine this specimen and confirm its identity. Later Harrison (1992a) published details separating this addition to the British List from *T. praeusta* although one of his diagnostic characters appears to have been transposed. The "short white pubescence in addition to the longer darker hairs" on the sides of the pronotum are present on *T. praeusta* not *T. starkii* as listed. More recently Lohse & Lucht (1994) have provided more detailed descriptions and figures for the separation of these two species.

In May 1997 I was asked by Forest Heath District Council to survey a site near Mildenhall, Suffolk, for saproxylic Coleoptera. The pasture-woodland site at Aspoll Close, Beck Row, (TL 700773) contains over 200 pollarded oaks. On 28 May 1997 I collected three female specimens of *Tetrops* by beating hawthorn blossom; one from the eastern boundary hedge, and two from a bush surrounding the base of an old oak pollard. One of the latter was considerably larger and of a different appearance to the others. Upon later examination it was found to have all legs completely yellow, with the tips of the elytra slightly sinuous, a character shown by Harrison (1992a) to distinguish *T. starkii*. The hind margin of the last sternite also possessed a deep transverse groove with a deeper central pit similar to that indicated by the figures of Cooter (1990) and Lohse & Lucht (1994). There was no doubt that this was a female *Tetrops starkii*. Upon enquiring of Tom Harrison I learned that he was unaware of any records for this species since his 1991 capture and no additional records have been received from contributors to the Cerambycidae Recording Scheme (Twinn & Harding, 1998).

The discovery of this, the second British record of *T. starkii* prompted me to search out and examine other material in my collections previously identified as *T. praeusta*. Two of the 15 specimens I located had all legs completely yellow and dissection showed them to be a male and female *T. starkii* collected in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve, Huntingdonshire (now part of the Administrative County of Cambridgeshire) on 15 June 1995. Both had been collected by sweeping herbaceous vegetation beside rides bordering Compartment 14 (TL 202799). This area of the wood is predominantly field maple, *Acer campestre*, and ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, with hazel, *Corylus avellana* under-storey. I have been unable to find a third specimen taken in an adjacent ride on the same day. Another pair of *Tetrops* beaten from hawthorn blossom in Hotel Ride (TL 1980) by R.A. Plant on 1 June 1973 proved to be *T. praeusta*.

Dissection of all my *Tetrops* material would indicate that unicolorous pale legs is a good character to separate *T. starkii* from *T. praeusta*. The grooved sternite readily

confirms the identity of female specimens but the sinuation and small spine on the hind margin of the elytra is not always as distinct as shown by Harrison (1992a). Furthermore there appears to be some confusion over this character as Lohse & Lucht (1994) attribute it to *T. praeusta*. Surely their figures 1F and 2F must have been transposed, although in my specimens the dark area at the tip of the elytra does appear to be more extensive in *T. starkii* as they indicate. Despite this confusion dissection of the male genitalia allows easy separation of these two species. In *T. praeusta* the aedeagus tapers to a sharp point at an acute angle of approximately 60°. In my only male specimen of *T. starkii* the aedeagus is much broader, coming to a blunter point with the sides at an angle of approximately 80°, but Lohse & Lucht (1994) show this as an obtuse angle. In *T. praeusta* the tip turns down slightly at the apex whilst in *T. starkii*, on the ventral surface of the tip, there is a small oval depression in the mid-line with a raised ridge on either side. The parameres also differ markedly. In *T. praeusta* they are approximately four times longer than their width, whereas those of *T. starkii* are only twice as long as wide.

Although all four specimens of *T. starkii* so far identified have been collected since 1990 it seems very unlikely that this is a recent immigrant to Britain. Coleopterists are urged to examine their own, and museum, collections paying particular attention to any *Tetrops* with all legs yellow. In *T. praeusta* only the forelegs are yellow, the mid and hind legs having femora and tibiae variously darkened.

References

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Lohse, G.A. & Lucht, W.H., 1994. *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*, 3 supplementband mit Katalogteil. Krefeld, Goecke & Evers, pp.13-15.
Twinn, P.F.G. & Harding, P.T., 1998. *Provisional Atlas of the Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) of Britain*. Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

***Blastobasis decolorella* Woll. (Lep.: Blastobasidae) in north-east Hampshire and north-west Surrey**

Alasdair Aston's note on *Blastobasis decolorella* in north-east Hampshire (*antea*: 254) prompts me to record my own observations of this species. In my garden (OS grid ref. SU 8259) I took specimens on 4 June 1993 and 28 June 1994. Nearby on Yateley Common (SU 8159) six specimens were noted on 18 June 1997. Elsewhere in north-east Hampshire I took a specimen at Rye Common (SU 7650) on 26 July 1996. Across the border in Surrey I took a specimen on the late date of 4 November 1993 at Brentmoor Heath nature reserve (identification confirmed by John Langmaid). I am also aware of a specimen being taken by Mrs J. Hatto and identified by Tony Dobson at Heath End near Farnham (SU 8549) on 31 July 1995. Goater (1992. *The butterflies and moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight: additions and corrections*) lists no records for North Hampshire but it would appear to have colonised the area in recent years and to now be fairly widespread and not uncommon.— TONY DAVIS, The Rangers House, Cricket Hill Lane, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6BB.